

Wood

STOURPORT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF

The Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1919.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1919. The Stourport Urban Sanitary District comprises the parishes of Lower Mitton and Upper Mitton, Upper Mitton having been annexed in 1897.

The total acreage is 1165; Lower Mitton, 829; Upper Mitton, 336. The district overlies the new red sandstone, the subsoil being very porous, sand and gravel.

It is bounded by the Droitwich, Martley and Kidderminster Rural Sanitary Districts, the River Stour separating it from the Droitwich Rural District and the River Severn from the Martley Rural District.

From New Town and Burlish there is a gradual descent to the Rivers Severn and Stour, the land adjacent to the rivers being liable to floods: that part of the district known as Baldwin Road, Summerfield Road and Mill Road has water within 3 or 4 feet of the surface for most of the year and some of the cellars in Summerfield Road often have sub-soil water in them.

Lower Mitton includes the old town of Stourport, its shops and factories and about 764 acres of farm land: Upper Mitton includes the old hamlet of Upper Mitton and New Town, which latter is composed almost entirely of artisan dwellings built within the last 50 years.

Lower Mitton is in the Kidderminster Union and Registration District, but Upper Mitton remains (as before annexation in 1897) in the Droitwich Union and Registration District.

Local Industries include a Carpet Factory, a Holloware and Hinge Foundry, a Tin Stamping and Enamelware Factory, a Vinegar Brewery, a Tannery and Engineering Works; the Water Traffic is considerable as the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal here joins the River Severn and gives employment to a number of people; there are about 1036 acres of farm land; the number of houses is 1064.

Vital Statistics.

The data from which these have been compiled are supplied by the Registrar General.

Estimated population for Birth Rate, 4377.

Estimated population for Death Rate, 4202.

The number of births and deaths are those registered during the calendar year and are corrected for inward and outward transfers.

The death rate population excludes all non-civilian males whether serving at home or abroad.

The birth (and marriage) rate population, on the other hand is intended to include all the elements of the population contributing to the birth and marriage rates. It consists therefore, of the death rate or civilian population *plus* all non-civilians enlisted from this country whether serving at home or abroad.

Births.—38 males, 32 females, Total 70.

4 males and 1 female were illegitimate, Total 5.

The birth rate is therefore 15.9, which, though higher than last year (13.4) is far below the average of pre-war years which was over 20. This low rate is doubtless due to post-war conditions, including the difficulty of getting houses and the consequent postponement of marriages.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales is 18.5.

Deaths.—28 males, 38 females, Total 66.

The death rate is therefore 15.5, which closely approximates the birth rate: in fact, only four fewer deaths were registered than births.

No illegitimate deaths were registered.

The Death Rate for England and Wales is 13.8.

13 deaths were registered as due to cancer and 8 to tuberculosis so that nearly a third of the total deaths were due to these two diseases alone. The mortality from cancer would be greatly diminished if patients would consult their doctors earlier, when, in a fair percentage of cases, the disease can be effectually dealt with by operation: unfortunately the earliest stage of the disease, when there is only a lump, is seldom associated with pain and it is only when the lump has grown considerably or pain is definite, that a doctor is consulted, when, alas, the prospect of cure is considerably less. As soon as a lump is noticed a doctor should be consulted, whether there be pain or not.

Infant Mortality.—4 infants died under the age of one year so that the rate of Infant Mortality is 57, about half of what it was 20 years ago, a vast improvement.

The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales is 89.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—109 cases of (notifiable) infectious diseases were notified: Diphtheria, 3; Erysipelas, 2; Measles, 91; Pneumonia (probably Influenza), 5; Tuberculosis, 8.

Diphtheria.—Of the three cases notified two occurred in the same house. All recovered.

Pneumonia.—2 cases died.

Measles.—One case was notified in March. In November a case was notified, the child infected being below school age, who infected a child next door, also below school age, but so far as it was possible to judge, no further case was infected from this source. From December 7th to 12th, 7 cases were notified among children attending the Infant and Junior Schools and though an attempt was made to check the epidemic by closing the infected classes, the result was ineffective and by the end of the year over 90 households had been attacked. As only the first case attacked in each household is notifiable within the period of one month and as the result of enquiries the number of children affected in each household averaged 3, probably, by the end of the year between 200 and 300 children had succumbed. In January and February, 1920, another 52 cases had been notified so that, in all, about 400 children had been attacked. Up to the end of the year not a single case had died, and only one (a child of 2 years, from broncho-pneumonia) during the whole epidemic. Though the type of the disease was generally mild there were some severe cases, and the weather was mild, on the whole, throughout the epidemic. I attribute this excellent result to the facts that most of the children received medical attendance and were also visited by the Sanitary Inspector and by the Nurse. I am convinced, and my conviction is endorsed by the medical men practising in the district, that the knowledge that each case was known and supervised led to far greater care than usual being taken of the sick children; they were not allowed to get up so soon as usual, complications were dealt with promptly, and rules as to diet, &c., carried out more faithfully, and though notification automatically ceased at the end of the year medical men continued to notify cases until the epidemic ended.

I strongly recommend that the notification of measles be made compulsory; the Council have already made an application to the Ministry of Health to that effect.

Tuberculosis.—This disease is far too prevalent in the district, and though only 8 cases were notified, I feel sure that many persons are infected who fail to consult a doctor till the disease is too far advanced for successful treatment.

Of the 8 cases notified two were dead before the end of the year, two were not improving, and one had left the district and in two only the disease seems to be arrested. Possibly the food difficulties, which are as great (if not greater) as they were during the war, may have had some influence in increasing susceptibility, but I feel sure that by building really good houses for the working classes and closing or improving existing property of a poor standard more can be done to eliminate this dreadful disease than by any other method.

Each case is visited by the County Tuberculosis Officer or his Assistant, and is supervised by the Nurse if treated at home, and some are treated in a sanatorium where they sometimes improve, though too often, only temporarily. On the whole sanatorium treatment is not very successful, partly, no doubt, because the disease is too far advanced when they get there, partly because many of the patients are temperamentally unfit for institutional treatment.

On March 13th, a Local Government Board Order rescinded the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1918, which dealt with the notification of tuberculosis cases notified among men of military age.

Scarlatina.—For 3 years the district has been practically free from this disease which was once so common; the only case notified being one last year of a munition worker belonging to the district who contracted the disease while at work in another district.

Influenza.—In January there were a few isolated cases, but in February a serious and extensive epidemic occurred which necessitated the closure of the schools (both Day and Sunday), it lasted till the end of March and there were three fatal cases. Convalescence was slow and in March many suffered from respiratory diseases.

In the last 3 months of the year so-called colds, or epidemic catarrh, were very common; the disease was very infectious, recrudescence during convalescence was common and many patients became very debilitated. Throughout the epidemic cases occasionally occurred presenting symptoms identical with influenza.

In February a Memorandum on the Prevention of Influenza was issued by the Local Government Board, accompanied by a leaflet of advice to the Public on Precautions to be taken against influenza; this leaflet was practically identical with one issued by the Council in November 1918.

In May a general order of revision of Public Health (Influenza) Regulations, 1918, was issued.

In December a further Memorandum on Prevention of Influenza was issued by the Ministry of Health which is under consideration.

An anti-influenza vaccine has been issued by the Ministry of Health for free distribution to Medical Practitioners in the district. Statistics of its use in the Army proved favourable.

Veneveal Diseases.—These are still more prevalent than they used to be before the war. The County Council still arranges for treatment free of cost and in strict confidence.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The County Council is the executive authority for dealing with this important subject.

Under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919, arrangements may be made for the supply of milk to necessitous mothers and young children at cost price, less than cost price, or free.

Memoranda, Regulations, or Orders have been issued by the Ministry of Health on the following subjects also:—

Supply and use of Vaccine Lympe for the vaccination or re-vaccination of persons who may have been exposed to Small Pox infection.

Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery, &c.

Measures for the Prevention of Lousiness and the Foot and Mouth Disease.

Acute Encephalitis Lethargic and Acute Polio Encephalitis.

Procedure recommended to be taken in the event of persons being bitten by dogs suspected or ascertained to be rabid.

The Prophylactic use of Tetanus Antitoxin.

Employment of Discharged and Disabled Officers and Men.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.—The accompanying Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector gives in detail the work undertaken during the year. The high price of materials and labour and the difficulty of obtaining both cause delay in carrying out much necessary work.

Housing Accommodation.—No houses have been erected during the year, but the sanction of the Ministry of Health has been obtained for the erection of 48 dwellings for the working classes on an excellent site purchased by the Council on the Moor Hall estate close to the Bewdley Road.

Water Supply.—1047 houses are supplied from the water main. The supply is constant and of excellent quality. The rest of the houses are supplied by wells.

Rivers and Streams.—No serious pollution of the rivers takes place in the district.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The Bridge Street area and also a small part of Mill Road still use the old sewers. The rest of the sewage is dealt with on the Titton Sands Farm.

Scavenging.—This is regularly and systematically carried out. It is hoped that the ash-pits still existent will soon be replaced by ash-bins.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.—A certain amount of systematic inspection has been undertaken, but it is hoped to improve this amount in the near future.

Schools.—The Schools are in fair sanitary condition.

The Medical Inspection of children is undertaken by the County Education Authority.

Food. MILK SUPPLY.—The larger portion is imported into the district.

There are 6 cowsheds which are inspected twice annually; 3 dairies, and 8 purveyors of milk.

BAKE HOUSES.—Visited twice annually.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—The 8 slaughter houses are visited quarterly and inspected at irregular times. They are kept clean.

A Public Abbatoir would facilitate the necessary inspection of meat.

A small quantity of unsound tinned food was surrendered and destroyed.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. STANLEY ROBINSON.

Printed by Order of the Council,

A. D. CAPEL LOFT,

5th May, 1920.

Clerk to the Council.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN STOURPORT U. D. 1919.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>				<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>
ALL CAUSES (Civilians only).				28	...	38
Influenza	...	...	...	1	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	—	...	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...	3	...	4
Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	1	...	—
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	7	...	6
Organic heart disease	...	...	...	4	...	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	...	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	1	...	3
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	—	...	1
Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	—	...	1
Parturition, apart from puerperal fever	...	...	...	—	...	1
Congenital debility, &c.	...	...	...	2	...	1
Violence, apart from suicide	...	...	...	—	...	1
Suicide	...	...	...	2	...	—
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	5	...	10
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	3	...	1
TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...	...	38	...	32
Legitimate	...	...	...	34	...	31
Illegitimate	...	...	...	4	...	1
POPULATION FOR BIRTH-RATE	...	...	...		4377	
„ „ DEATH-RATE	...	...	...		4202	

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

INSPECTOR'S OFFICE.

MITTON STREET.

APRIL 6TH, 1920.

TO THE STOURPORT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.

I beg to present my Annual Report of Sanitary and other work done during the year ending December 31st, 1919.

During the year 385 cases of nuisances, or infringements under the various Acts, Bye Laws and Regulations, were found and dealt with, as compared with 478 cases for the year 1918. Owing to the abnormally high cost of labour and materials, only such cases as are really necessary in the interests of public health are dealt with; so that what was stated in the second paragraph of my Annual Report for the year 1918, more than holds good to day; inasmuch that the cost of labour and materials is higher, and is likely to be higher still.

There was one Statutory Notice outstanding at the end of the year.

NOTICES FOR THE ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

During the year 162 Preliminary Notices were served upon owners and occupiers for the abatement of nuisances, as compared with 175 Preliminary Notices during the year 1918; showing a reduction of 13 in the year.

Two Statutory Notices were served during the year; the same number as were served in 1918; one of those notices is outstanding at the present time. In connection with that case, the Committee at their Meeting held on 31st March were promised the work would be carried out.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACTS.

In compliance with the Orders and Regulations of the Ministry of Health Systematic inspection has been carried out in the following Streets, during the year:—

Bridge Street, Courts 1-2, Bridge Street, Brindley Street, Canal Side, Courts 1-2, High Street, Gilgal, Lion Hill, Court 1, Lion Hill, Lichfield Street, Mart Lane, Mitton Street, Mitton Gardens, New Street, Court 1, New Street, Parkes Passage, Raven Street, Worcester Street.

In this manner 943 visits were made during the year. Of that number 398 visits were made for the purposes of the Housing Survey Forms, but the time allowed for the completion of that work, was quite insufficient to allow for the whole of the work being carried out in a satisfactory manner. The forms contained questions which could not be answered from any of the record books, hence the reason for so much running about. A new book has been obtained of a kind which will be quite up to date.

COMPLAINTS.

During the year 27 complaints of various matters were received, as compared with 24 for the year 1918.

Of the 27 complaints received, eight were written and properly signed; ten were made verbally; and nine were anonymous. The cause of complaint was enquired into in each case, and dealt with in such a manner as was necessary.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT 1889; AND

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (PREVENTION) ACT 1890.

Ninety-eight cases of Notifiable disease were reported to the Medical Officer of Health during the year, as compared with thirty-five cases during 1918.

These consisted of two cases of Diphtheria, two cases of Erysipelas, one case of Influenza-Pneumonia; Ninety one cases of Measles; and two cases of Tuberculosis.

Sixty of the cases were visited by myself, and the remainder by the Nurse alone. As is usual in all infectious cases, disinfectants in the form of liquid and powder are supplied as often as required during the time the case lasts.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDER, 1885, AND

REGULATIONS MADE THEREUNDER.

At the end of the year there were six Cowsheds, and eight purveyors of milk in the district. During the year twenty-five visits were paid, and five contraventions consisting of insufficient lighting and ventilation, and want of cleanliness were found and dealt with.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS 1878, 1894.

No cases of Disease under the above Acts occurred in the district during the year.

SCAVENGING.

In the removal of house refuse every effort has been made to carry-out the work on similar lines to those adopted in previous years; but that has been impossible, owing to the inferior quality of the team labour supplied, and when supplied the extremely independent spirit in which the work was carried out. In consequence of this there has been rather more delay than usual in getting the refuse removed.

There has also been a scarcity of manual labour.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

At the end of the year there were eight Slaughter Houses in the district; two of these are registered, and six are licensed.

During the year, forty-five visits were paid to these places; and they have been found to be kept clean and in accordance with the Bye-Laws.

There are no offensive trades in the district.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1907.

At the end of the year there were 36 workshops in the district. Seventy visits were paid to the places, and five cases of contravention were found and dealt with as nuisances, and were due to a want of cleanliness, and limewashing. The work required to be done was carried out.

The following are the workshops in the district:—

Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	9
Boat Builders	...	...	...	...	...	2
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cycle Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Joiners	...	...	...	...	...	3
Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	1
Saddlers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Smiths	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wheelwrights	...	...	...	...	...	1
Motor repairers	...	...	...	...	...	4
						—
						36
						—

No case of outworker has been reported during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

The number of houses supplied with water from the mains during the year is 1,047. The supply has been good, and a good pressure has been maintained throughout the year.

The consumption of water during the year was 39,899,000 gallons, as compared with 39,196,000 gallons for the year 1918; showing an increase of 703,000 gallons. The consumption of water by Meter was 14,724,000 gallons as compared with 10,886,000 gallons for the year 1918; showing an increase of 3,838,000 gallons.

UNSOUND FOOD.

During the year the following were surrendered, and condemned as being unfit for human consumption:—

3 tins Salmon, 2 tins Herrings, 2 tins Crayfish, 3 tins Tomatoes, 1 tin Lobster, 4 tins Pine Apples.

CANAL BOATS ACTS, 1877, 1884.

During the year ending December 22nd, 1919; 56 Canal Boats were inspected, and there was a decided improvement in the general condition of the boats met with, compared with those met with in the previous two years. The paintwork and cabins were all in good condition, while ventilation appeared to be better looked after than has been the case in previous years. In no case was it found necessary to serve notices respecting any infringement of the regulations, neither have any notices issued by other authorities been received for certifying “that the cause of complaint has been removed. No case of overcrowding or sickness was met with on any of the boats, which were worked as follows:—

By men only	...	...	...	...	...	50
By man and wife	...	...	...	...	...	6
						<hr/> 56 <hr/>

In conclusion, I desire to tender you my sincere thanks for the courtesy and consideration shown to me, and for the support given me in carrying out my duties during the year.

SUMMARY OF WORK

Done during the Year ending December 31st, 1919.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT 1909.

Premises visited and inspected	...	...	...	943
Work in progress: visits thereto	...	...	...	47
Meetings of, and visits with owners	...	...	...	46
“ “ “ Agents	...	...	...	31
Number of houses, the defects in which were remedied without Closing Orders	...	...	...	122
Number of cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	—
Number of houses erected	...	...	...	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Number of cases of Notifiable Diseases reported...	...	96
Number of visits thereto ... ..	...	65
„ premises disinfected ... ..	...	6
Improvements carried out as result of inspection and notices served :—		
Number of houses cleansed ... ..	...	67
Number of houses cleansed after Infectious Disease ...	...	6
Number of floors repaired ... ..	...	12
Number of floors relaid ... ..	...	—
Number of walls repaired ... ..	...	6
Number of roofs repaired ... ..	...	28
Number of Chimneys repaired ... ..	...	9
Number of firegrates repaired ... ..	...	6
Number of firegrates renewed ... ..	...	3
External walls tarred or otherwise treated ... ..	...	0
Windows made to open ... ..	...	8
Pantries lighted and ventilated ... ..	...	10
Pantry floors relaid ... ..	...	11
Number of gutters and downspouts renewed ... ..	...	15
Dangerous buildings demolished ... ..	...	1
Number of gutters and downspouts repaired ... ..	...	15
Number of dust-bins provided... ..	...	19

SCULLERIES, WATER CLOSETS, &c.

Number of Sculleries limewashed ... ..	...	19
Number of floors relaid ... ..	...	—
Number of floors repaired ... ..	...	12
Number of W.Cs. limewashed ... ..	...	24
Number of floors relaid ... ..	...	6
Number of floors repaired ... ..	...	10
Number of Washing Boilers repaired ... ..	...	3
Number of Sinks and Sink Wastes fixed ... ..	...	6
Number of Additional Sculleries provided ... ..	...	—

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

Number laid or relaid ... ..	...	9
Number trapped and ventilated ... ..	...	9
Number of drains tested ... ..	...	10
Number of obstructed drains cleared ... ..	...	30
Number of Inspection Chambers provided ... ..	...	6
Number of Inspection Chambers provided with Intercepting Traps ... ..	...	3
Number of broken W.C. pedestals renewed ... ..	...	12
Number of additional W.C.'s provided ... ..	...	—

Number of urinals repaired and renewed	...	...	—
Number of W.C's lighted and ventilated	...	...	9
Number of privies converted to Water Closets	...	...	9
Number of privies with fixed receptacles	...	...	38
Number of privies with movable receptacles	...	...	—
Number of fresh water flushed closets	...	...	733
Number of hand flushed closets	...	...	—
Number of waste water flushed closets	...	...	—

PAVING.

Paving to yards repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Number of paved approaches to outbuildings provided	...	...	...	...	—

OTHER NUISANCES.

Number of cases of pig keeping abated	...	...	...	4
Number of fowl keeping nuisances abated	...	...	...	—
Number of accumulations of manure removed	...	...	...	4

SCAVENGING.

Number of houses from which refuse is removed	...	...	...	1064
Number of ash-pits cleansed	...	...	...	563
Number of dust-bins emptied	...	...	...	15822
Number of loads removed	...	...	...	1025
Number of Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	9
Number of privies emptied	...	...	...	69
Number of Middens emptied	...	...	...	1
Number of loads removed	...	...	...	125

WATER SUPPLY.

Number of houses supplied from waterworks during the year	...	...	...	...	...	1047
Number of Samples sent for analysis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of houses with contaminated water supplies dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	—

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number registered	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number licensed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	45

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number under supervision	...	...	...	...	36
Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	70
Number of insanitary conditions dealt with as nuisances	...	...	...	...	5
Number of contraventions dealt with	...	...	...	...	5

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Number of Purveyors of Milk...	...	...	...	8
Number of dairies registered ...	...	...	...	3
Number of contraventions of orders and regulations dealt with ...	...	...	...	0
Number of cowsheds in district	...	...	...	5
Number of inspections made ...	...	...	...	25
Number of milking cows in district	...	...	...	48

UNSOUND FOOD.

Amount surrendered as unfit for human consumption	44 lbs.
Amount destroyed	44 lbs.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Number of convictions obtained with regard to insanitary conditions	—
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CLERICAL WORK.

Number of Preliminary Notices served...	162
Number of Statutory Notices served	2
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	1
Number of Statutory Notices outstanding	...	...	1
Number of official letters written	...	...	299

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE J. EDMUNDSON.

